

Clark County Public Health

Community Transformation Grant —Success Stories

Breathing easier with cleaner air

Tobacco use remains the most frequent cause of preventable death in the US. Secondhand smoke (SHS) can cause harm in many ways. Each year in the United States alone, SHS is responsible for an estimated 42,000 deaths from heart disease in people who are current non-smokers and approximately 3,400 lung cancer deaths in non-smoking adults. The cost of extra medical care, illness, and death caused by SHS in the U.S. totals more than \$10 billion per year.

Multi-unit housing

Secondhand smoke is a concern for residents of multi-unit housing. Secondhand smoke drifts from units where smoking occurs and infiltrates throughout a building, seeping into units through shared walls, ventilation systems and ductwork and negatively affecting the health of residents. Smoking is also the most frequent cause of fire death in Washington and the U.S. In the first three months of 2014, two cigarette-caused fires in Clark County caused several hundred thousand dollars of damage and displaced dozens of residents.



In 2013, nearly 200 landlords and property managers attended two *Creating Healthier Communities* trainings. An additional 88 landlords will attend the training in September 2014. Landlords learned how to improve community health by implementing no-smoking rules, regulating marijuana, and enforcing lease compliance. A post-program evaluation conducted after six months indicated that 198 units have been converted to no-smoking since the landlord/manager attended training. Eighty-three percent of landlords who returned a survey have no-smoking rules for their rentals meaning a total of 3,341 units and thousands of residents are protected from second hand smoke.

Smoke-free Outdoor Venues

Clark County Public Health (CCPH) collaborated with community partners to extend smoke-free environments to outdoor venues including parks, farmers markets and community events. As a result:

- Four local farmers markets adopted smoke-free policies and posted signs at market entry-points.
- The City of Vancouver and Clark County Environmental Health Services implemented messaging in outdoor event permit packets and added this information to their websites.
- CCPH partnered with Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation to update permanent signage in city parks and distributed “no-smoking” signage to neighborhood associations throughout Clark County.
- In support of tobacco-free parks, worked with neighborhood leaders to organize Make a Difference Day clean-up that removed 7 ½ pounds of cigarette butts from three parks.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.